

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A water heater, comprising:

2 a heat source[[,]];

3 ~~heat exchange means for heating supplied water, and electrolytic water generating means,~~

4 ~~wherein a removing operation of scale having salt as main ingredient deposited in a water pipe of~~

5 ~~said heat exchange means is carried out using produced water of said electrolytic water generating~~

6 ~~means~~

7 heat exchange means for receiving water, heating the received water, and supplying the

8 heated water, said heat exchange means including a water pipe; and

9 electrolytic water generating means for generating acid water and alkali water,

10 wherein if a hot water supplying operation time exceeds a preset value, a removing operation

11 of scale having salt as a main ingredient adhered to a water pipe of said heat exchange means is

12 performed for a predetermined time using the acid water produced by said electrolytic water

13 generating means while the hot water supplying operation is stopped.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The water heater according to claim 1, wherein ~~acid water~~

2 ~~which is one of the produced water of said heat exchange means is used in deposited salt removing~~

3 ~~processing for removing salt deposited in the water pipe of said heat exchange means, the water used~~  
4 ~~in this processing is mixed with alkali water which is the other water of the produced water and~~  
5 ~~discharged out~~

6 the acid water flowing out from said water pipe of said heat exchange means is mixed with  
7 the alkali water generated by said electrolytic water generating means and discharged out.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): A water heater, comprising:

2 a heat source[[,]];

3 ion exchange means for removing at least basic positive ion from received water; in supplied  
4 ~~water, heat exchange means for heating water after the basic positive ion is removed, and electrolytic~~  
5 ~~water generating means, wherein a regenerating operation of said ion exchange means is carried out~~  
6 ~~using produced water of said electrolytic water generating means~~

7 heat exchange means for heating water after the basic positive ion is removed; and

8 electrolytic water generating means for generating acid water and alkali water,

9 wherein if a hot water supplying operation exceeds a preset value, a regenerating operation  
10 of said ion exchange means is performed for a predetermined time using the acid water produced by  
11 said electrolytic water generating means while the hot water supplying operation is stopped.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The water heater according to claim 3, wherein

2 said ion exchange means includes positive ion removing means for removing positive ion

3 and negative ion removing means for removing negative ion,

4 the acid water produced by said electrolytic water generating means is used for regenerating  
5 processing of said positive ion removing means,

6 the alkali water produced by said electrolytic water generating means is used for regenerating  
7 processing of said negative ion removing means,

8 ~~both the former water and later water~~ the acid water and the alkali water are mixed and  
9 discharged out.

Claim 5 (canceled).

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The water heater according to claim 1, wherein  
2 ~~before the hot water supplying operation is carried out or when the temperature of said heat~~  
3 ~~exchange means is low, salt deposited in a water pipe of said heat exchange means is removed~~  
4 before said heat exchange means supplies the heated water or when the temperature of said  
5 heat exchange means is low, deposited salt is removed.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The water heater according to any one of claims 1 to 4,  
2 wherein  
3 ~~the supplied water is heated to~~ the heated water supplied by said heat exchange means is  
4 70°C or higher.

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1           Claim 8 (original): The water heater according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein  
2           said heat source is a vapor compression type heat pump.

1           Claim 9 (original): The water heater according to claim 8, wherein  
2           carbon dioxide is used as a refrigerant of said vapor compression type heat pump.